IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

REBECCA GARCIA,

Plaintiff, Case No.: 1:16-CV-872

٧.

GEICO GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendant.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

Defendant GEICO General Insurance Company, hereinafter ("GEICO"), by and through its counsel of record, Chapman and Charlebois, P.C., (Donna L. Chapman and John A. Armijo), hereby files this Notice of Removal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1441 and 1446, and in support thereof, states as follows:

- 1. Plaintiff Rebecca Garcia ("Plaintiff") filed her Complaint to Recover Damages for Personal Injury and Other Damages ("Complaint") in the Second Judicial District, Bernalillo County, State of New Mexico, in Cause No. D-202-CV-2016-03783 (hereinafter "State Court Action") on June 17, 2016. (See Plaintiff's Complaint, attached hereto as **Exhibit A**).
- 2. In her Complaint, Plaintiff alleges she was a resident of the State of New Mexico at the time of the collision. (Id. at \P 1).
- 3. Plaintiff named Defendant GEICO, as the only Defendant in Plaintiff's Complaint.
- 4. Defendant asserts GEICO is incorporated and its principal place of business is in the state of Maryland.

- 5. Diversity of citizenship is present in this matter as set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) and 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b)(2).
- 6. Defendant accepted service through the Superintendent of Insurance on June 29, 2016. (See Exhibit B).
- 7. Less than thirty (30) days have passed since Defendant accepted service of the initial pleadings on this matter.
- 8. As Defendant has accepted service and is the only Defendant served in this matter, 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b)(2)(A) is satisfied. (See Register of Actions for the State Court Action, hereto attached as **Exhibit C**).
- 9. Pursuant to Plaintiff's allegations, the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, as set forth in 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(b)(2).
- 10. Pursuant to the attached documentation from Plaintiff's counsel, dated April 18, 2016, the amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional amount of \$75,000. See **Exhibit D**. See also, *Hanna v. Miller*, 163 F.Supp. 2d 1302, 1305-06 (D.N.M. 2001) (stating for purposes of determining diversity jurisdiction, the court may consider other relevant materials in the record).
- 11. This case may be removed to this Court by Defendant pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(b) and 1446.
- 12. By and through this Notice of Removal, Defendant removes all claims asserted against it on the basis of diversity jurisdiction, which is conferred upon this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332 and 1441.
- 13. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), written notice of the filing of this Notice of Removal is being concurrently served upon the Plaintiff on this date.

14. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d), Defendant is concurrently filing a Notice of

Filing of Removal in the State Court Action, a copy of which is hereto attached as Exhibit

E.

15. In addition to the Notice of Filing Notice of Removal in the State Court Action,

Defendant is concurrently filing an Entry of Appearance in the State Court Action on this

date, a copy of which is hereto attached as Exhibit F.

16. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a) and D.N.M.LR-Civ. 81.1(a), all process,

pleadings, and orders from the State Court Action will be filed with this Court in a separate

Transmittal of State Court Record within twenty-eight days (28) of this Notice.

17. A Civil Cover Sheet for this Court is hereto attached as Exhibit G.

WHEREFORE, the removing Defendant gives notice the above-styled action,

which was pending in the Second Judicial District, Bernalillo County, State of New

Mexico, as Cause No. D-202-CV-2016-03783 is removed to this Court.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAPMAN AND CHARLEBOIS, P.C.

/s/John A. Armijo

Donna L. Chapman John A. Armijo P.O. Box 92438

Albuquerque, NM 87199

Tel: (505) 242-6000

donna@cclawnm.com

john@cclawnm.com

Attorneys for Defendant GEICO General

Insurance Company

3

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT on this day of July, 2016, I filed the foregoing electronically through CM/ECF system, which caused the following counsel of record to be served by electronic means, as more fully reflected on the Notice of Electronic Filing:

Mark J. Caruso Caruso Law Offices, P.C. 4302 Carlisle Blvd., N.E. Albuquerque, NM 87107 505-883-5000 Attorney for Plaintiff

/s/John A. Armijo John A. Armijo

FILED IN MY OFFICE DISTRICT COURT CLERK 6/17/2016 11:43:43 AM James A. Noel Patricia Serna

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF BERNALILLO SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

REBECCA GARCIA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

 N_0 . D-202-CV-2016-03783

GEICO GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendant.

COMPLAINT TO RECOVER DAMAGES FOR PERSONAL INJURY AND OTHER DAMAGES

COMES NOW the Plaintiff Rebecca Garcia, by and through her attorneys of record, Caruso Law Offices, P.C., by Mark J. Caruso, Esq. and brings her claim for damages against the Defendant and for her cause of action states as follows:

- 1. Plaintiff Rebecca Garcia is a resident of County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico.
- 2. Defendant Geico General Insurance Company, hereinafter "Defendant Geico" is a foreign corporation doing business in the State of New Mexico by issuing automobile liability insurance policies to New Mexico residents.
- 3. Plaintiff Rebecca Garcia procured her insurance policy from Defendant Geico. Said policy provided for uninsured motorist coverage in the event Plaintiff Rebecca Garcia had a collision with an uninsured driver.
- 4. The incident giving rise to this action occurred in County of Bernalillo, State of New Mexico.
- 5. On or about December 14, 2014, Plaintiff Rebecca Garcia was traveling northbound on Coors Boulevard SW waiting to make a left hand turn, her arrow turned green and no traffic was



approaching. She began to make a left hand turn onto Bluewater Road NW when uninsured driver Daniel Trujeque collided with her vehicle.

6. Uninsured driver Daniel Trujeque is liable to Plaintiff Rebecca Garcia as a result of the following acts of negligence, acts or omissions:

Failing to observe and obey a traffic control device;

Failing to stop for a red light;

Failing to yield to oncoming traffic;

Driving inattentively;

Traveling too fast for conditions;

Failing to keep a proper look out;

Failing to keep a vehicle under control;

Driving a vehicle in violation of motor vehicle statutes, laws and ordinances;

Failing to operate a vehicle in a safe and reasonable manner; and

Driving a vehicle in a careless manner.

- 7. Plaintiff Rebecca Garcia is insured with Defendant Geico for uninsured motorist coverage.
- 8. Defendant Geico has a contractual obligation and duty to the Plaintiff, their insured, to provide the referenced coverage.
- 9. Defendant Geico has breached its contractual duty to the Plaintiff, their insured, to provide the referenced coverage to Plaintiff.
- 10. Defendant Geico is contractually directly liable to Plaintiff Rebecca Garcia for the following damages:

Damages for medical expenses, both past and future;

Damages for pain and suffering, both past and future; and

Damages for permanent injury and impairment.

11. The damages sought by Plaintiff Rebecca Garcia against Defendant Geico do not exceed

\$75,000, and this claim is therefore not subject to diversity jurisdiction of the United States District

Court.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Rebecca Garcia prays for judgment against Defendant Geico

General Insurance Company in an amount reasonable to compensate her for all the foregoing

damage and injuries, plus interest and prejudgment interest, attorney's fees, the costs of this action,

and for such other further relief as the Court may deem proper.

CARUSO LAW OFFICES, P.C.

By:

/s/Mark J. Caruso

Mark J. Caruso, Esq. Attorneys for Plaintiff

4302 Carlisle Blvd., N.E.

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

Tel: (505) 883-5000

Fax: (505) 883.5012

E-mail: www.carusolaw.com

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1689, Santa Fe, NM 87504-1689

Physical Address: 1120 Paseo de Peralta, Room 428, Santa Fe, NM 87501

Main Phone: (505) 827-4601; Main Fax (505) 827-4734; Toll Free: 1-855-4-ASK-OSI

www.osi.state.nm.us

SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE

John G. Franchini - (505) 827-4299

Room 434 (505) 827-1291

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

Robert Doucette - (505) 827-4439

June 29, 2016

GEICO General Insurance Co. Legal Dept. – Matthew J Zuraw 2280 North Greenville Ave Richardson, TX 75082 Forkal 1820101012

Re: Rebecca Garcia Vs GEICO General Insurance Company,

D202CV2016-03783

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with the provisions of NMSA 1978, Sections 59A-5-31 & 59A-32, enclosed is a copy of a Summons, and Complaint to Recover Damages for Personal Injury and Other Damages, Court-Annexed Arbitration Certification, Plaintiff's First Set of Interrogatories, and Request for Production, to Defendant GEICO General Insurance Company in the State of New Mexico on the above styled cause, Service has been accepted on your behalf as of June 29, 2016.

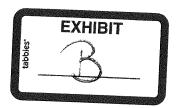
Respectfully,

John G. Franchini, Superintendent

John D. Franchi

Enclosure

CERTIFIED MAIL 7010 0290 0002 3837 6790



REGISTER OF ACTIONS CASE No. D-202-CV-2016-03783

Rebecca Garcia v. GEICO General Insurance Company

တတတတတ

Case Type: Tort Auto Date Filed: 06/17/2016 Location: Bernalillo County Judicial Officer: Campbell, Clay

PARTY INFORMATION

Defendant **GEICO General Insurance Company**

Garcia, Rebecca

Attorneys

Plaintiff

Mark J. Caruso Retained 505-883-5000(W)

EVENTS & ORDERS OF THE COURT

OTHER EVENTS AND HEARINGS

06/17/2016 Cause Of Actions Action Type

Other Damages

06/17/2016

Action Tort: Personal Injury Auto

Cause Of Actions Action Type

Action

06/17/2016 OPN: COMPLAINT

06/17/2016 ARB: CERT NOT SUBJECT

06/22/2016 Summons

GEICO General Insurance Company

Unserved

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Plaintiff Garcia, Rebecca

Total Financial Assessment Total Payments and Credits

132.00 132.00

Balance Due as of 07/28/2016

0.00

06/17/2016

Transaction Assessment

06/17/2016 File & Serve Payment Receipt # ALBD-2016-16932

Garcia, Rebecca

132.00 (132.00)



Apr. 18. 2016 1:09PM

Mark J. Caruso Attorney At Law Licensed In NM & CA



No. 9655 P. 3

Main Office 4302 Carlisle Blvd NE Albuquerque, NM 87107 Tel: (505) 883-5000 Fax: (505) 883-5012

Westside Office 2929 Coors Blvd. NW Sulte 310E Albuquerque, NM 87120 Tel: (505) 883-5000

www.carusolaw.com

April 18, 2016

GEICO

Attention: Phoenix Lopez

P.O. Box 509105 San Diego, CA 92150

RE: Our Client : Claim Number:

Rebecca Garcia

027149782-0101-012

Accident Date:

12.15.14

Dear Ms. Lopez:

As you are aware, we have been retained by Ms. Garcia with respect to the personal injuries she suffered as a result of the motor vehicle accident that occurred on December 15, 2014.

The purpose of this letter is as a demand for settlement and is not authorized for any other purpose. This letter will outline the important facts for determining the amount of damages which should be recovered by my client.

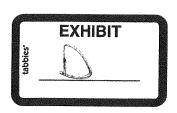
MEDICAL EXPENSES:

As you may be aware, New Mexico statutes have set forth a specific jury instruction to assist the jury in determining the amount of medical expenses which should be recovered by my client. The instruction is as follows:

"The reasonable value of necessary medical expenses which have been required as a result of the injury and the present cash value of such non-medical expenses reasonably certain to be required in the future." (NMSA Jury Instruction 13-1804)

Ms. Garcia incurred the following incident-related medical expenses as a direct result of the motor vehicle accident caused by your insured driver:

1.	Albuquerque Ambulance	\$ 843.10
2.	Presbyterian Rust Medical Center	\$2,444.00
3.	Presbyterian ER Physician Billing	\$ 610.00
4.	Edwards Chiropractic	\$4,908.00
5.	Albuquerque Health Partners (Journal Center)	\$1,801.00
6.	Taos Orthopedic Institute	\$ 185.00
7.	Lovelace Rehabilitation	\$5,723.06
8.	Radiology Associates of Alb.	\$ 335.00



Case 1:16-cv-00872-MV-SCY Document 1 Filed 07/29/16 Page 11 of 16

9. Zia Diagnostic \$ 65.00
10. Sage Neuroscience \$ 345.00
11. Hanger Prosthetics \$ 43.84

Total: \$17,238.00

No. 9655

P. 4

PAIN & SUFFERING:

Apr. 18. 2016 1:09PM

Each of Ms. Garcia's medical care providers have carefully documented all complaints of pain, suffering, and change of lifestyle as they relate to the injuries she sustained. This documentation is in the form of notes made contemporaneously with their examination and treatments of my client's injuries. In addition, friends and relatives of Rebecca Garcia can attest to the pain, suffering, and change of lifestyle as they relate to the injuries she sustained.

As you may be aware, New Mexico statutes have set forth a specific jury instruction to assist the jury in determining the amount of pain and suffering. The instruction is as follows:

"The pain and suffering experienced and reasonably certain to be experienced in the future as a result of the injury. The guide for you to follow in determining compensation for pain and suffering, if any, is the enlightened conscience of impartial jurors acting under the sanctity of your oath to compensate the plaintiffs with fairness to all parties to this action." (NMSA Jury Instruction 13-1807)

SETTLEMENT DEMAND:

Rebecca Garcia herein demands the sum of \$85,000.00 as full and final settlement of her injury claim. This offer cannot remain open indefinitely and shall terminate thirty (30) days following the date of your receipt of this certified demand package.

Enclosed please find complete documentation of all incident-related medical records and medical expenses incurred. Please contact me immediately, in writing, if you require any additional documentation to properly evaluate Ms. Garcia's bodily injury claim against your insured.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark I. Caruso

Attorney at Law, licensed in CA and NM

Caruso Law Offices, P.C.

MIC/mer

Enclosure(s): Medical Records and Expenses

cc: Rebecca Garcia

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF BERNALILLO SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

REBECCA GARCIA,

Plaintiff,

V.

No. D-202-CV-2016-03783

GEICO GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF FILING OF REMOVAL

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that GEICO General Insurance Company (hereinafter "GEICO"), by and through its attorneys Chapman and Charlebois, P.C. (Donna L. Chapman and John A. Armijo), has filed a Notice of Removal in the United States District Court for the District of New Mexico. A true and correct copy of the Notice of Removal, attached to this Notice as Exhibit "1" was emailed to:

Mark J. Caruso
Caruso Law Offices, P.C.
4302 Carlisle Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107
505-883-5000
mark@carusolaw.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

Respectfully submitted,

CHAPMAN AND CHARLEBOIS, P.C.

Donna L. Chapman John A. Armijo P.O. Box 92438 Albuquerque, NM 87199 Tel: (505) 242-6000 donna@cclawnm.com john@cclawnm.com Attorneys for GEICO



I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT on this day of July, 2016, I filed the foregoing electronically through the Odyssey File and Serve system, which caused the following counsel of record to be served by electronic means, as more fully reflected on the Notice of Electronic Filing, and that a copy was sent via e-mail to the following:

Mark J. Caruso Caruso Law Offices, P.C. 4302 Carlisle Blvd. NE Albuquerque, NM 87107 505-883-5000 <u>mark@carusolaw.com</u> Attorney for Plaintiff

John A. Armijo

STATE OF NEW MEXICO COUNTY OF BERNALILLO SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

REBECCA GARCIA,

Plaintiff,

V.

No. D-202-CV-2016-03783

GEICO GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendants.

ENTRY OF APPEARANCE

Chapman and Charlebois, P.C. (Donna L. Chapman and John A. Armijo), hereby enter their appearance on behalf of Defendant GEICO General Insurance Company. Copies of all documents pertaining to litigation in this matter should be sent to the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAPMAN AND CHARLEBOIS, P.C.

Donna L. Chapman
John A. Armijo
PO Box 92438
Albuquerque, NM 87199
505-242-6000
donna@cclawnm.com
john@cclawnm.com

Attorneys for GEICO



I hereby certify the foregoing was served on the following counsel of record via the Odyssey File & Serve system on this day of July, 2016:

Mark J. Caruso
Caruso Law Offices, P.C.
4302 Carlisle Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87107
505-883-5000
mark@carusolaw.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

John A. Armijo

JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of initiating the civil of	iocket sneet. (SEE INSTRU	CHONS ON NEXT PAGE C	JF THIS FC	JRM.)			
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS REBECCA GARCIA			DEFENDANT GEICO GENERA	NY			
(b) County of Residence of	of First Listed Plaintiff EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF C		County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.				
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, MARK J. CARUSO, CAF 4302 CARLISLE NE ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87	RUSO LAW ÓFFICES	Attorneys (If Known) DONNA L. CHAPMAN AND JOHN A. ARMIJO CHAPMAN AND CHARLEBOIS, P.C. P.O. BOX 92438 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87109 (505) 242-6000					
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in e	One Box Only)				L PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plainti
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)) PTF DEF XX 1 □ 1	Incorporated or Proof Business In T	
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	■ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizens)	hip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	O 2 O 2	Incorporated and F of Business In A	
				en or Subject of a (reign Country	O 3 O 3	Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT			Compania (Com				
# 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise ### REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 240 Torts to Land □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	Other:	X	DEFETURE/PENALTY 5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other LABOR D Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Management Relations 0 Railway Labor Act 1 Family and Medical Leave Act 0 Other Labor Litigation 1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration Actions	422 Appea 423 Withd 28 US PROPER 820 Copyr 830 Patent 840 Trader 861 HIA (TYRIGHTS rights mark SECURITY 1395ff) Lung (923) 'DIWW (405(g)) Title XVI 105(g)) LTAX SUITS (U.S. Plaintiff fendant)	OTHER STATUTES 375 False Claims Act 400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce 460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes EXHIBIT
	ON Cite the U.S. Civil State 28 u.s.c. Sec. 133 Brief description of caperSONAL INJU CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	Appellate Court stute under which you ar 32, 1441, 1141(b), 1 suse: JRY IS A CLASS ACTION	446 and	ened Anoth (specify o not cite jurisdictional sta	er District nutes unless dive		722
IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKET	NUMBER	
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATT	ORNEY O	FRECORD			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY							
RECEIPT# AM	MOUNT	APPI VING IEP		HIDGE		MAG JUD	GE